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**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal
Tommy Tomkins and his friends.**

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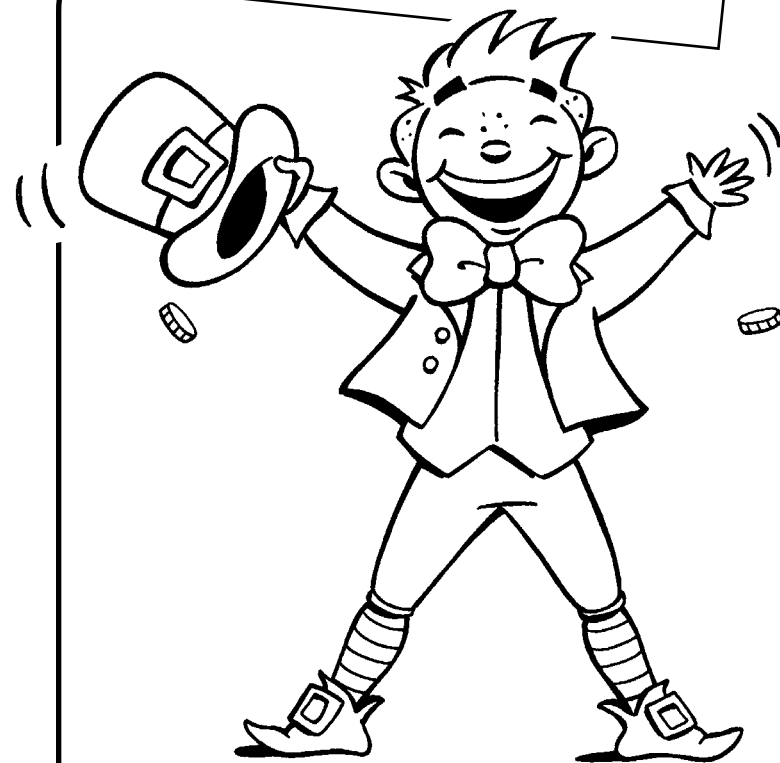
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BOOK 15



Tommy Goes to Ireland



Tommy Tales

Tommy and his friends were playing in the park. Kim saw a beautiful rainbow in the sky.

"Look at the rainbow," said Kim. "Isn't it beautiful!"

"You know there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?" asked Andy.



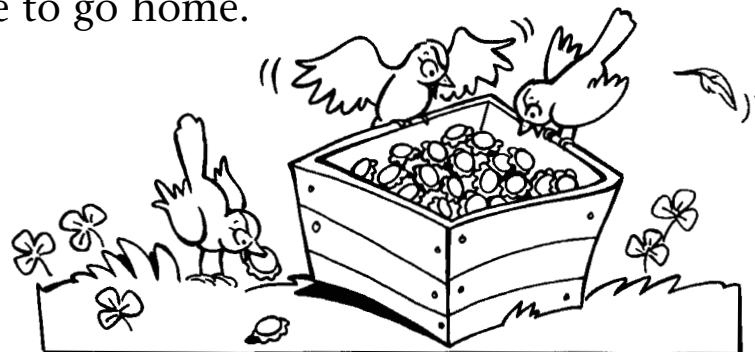
The leprechaun milkman drew up in his milk cart. Tommy helped him lift a big box of shiny bottle tops from the cart. There were bright silver bottle tops and shiny gold ones, too.

The leprechauns left the box of bottle tops for the birds. The jackdaws knew that they could take the bottle tops whenever they wanted. They now knew that they were not allowed to touch the gold.

The leprechauns were so pleased to have their gold back. They danced an Irish jig. They even taught the friends how to jig.

When they were all tired, Tommy and his friends said goodbye to the leprechauns.

It had been a great day, but now it was time to go home.





"The birds are called jackdaws," said RK-5. "They are not really thieves—they just like shiny objects. They can't resist taking any they find. I told them if they bring back all the gold, the leprechauns will give them some even shinier objects."

As soon as RK-5 had finished speaking, dozens of jackdaws flew down to the iron pot and dropped in gold coins. After ten minutes, the pot overflowed with gold coins. All the leprechauns clapped their hands and jumped up and down in happiness.

"Which end?" asked Sam.

"I don't know," said Andy.

"Maybe RK-5 knows," said Tommy. "He knows everything."

Tommy pulled his little robot friend from his pocket.

"We have a question for you," Tommy said to RK-5. "Is there a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow?"

"And at which end?" added Sam.

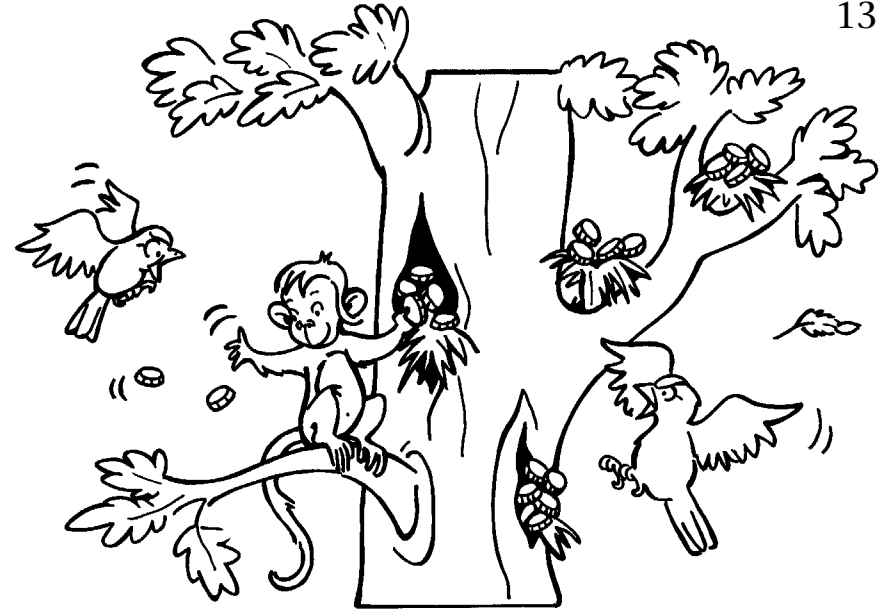




"There is gold at the end of rainbows," replied RK-5. "But only in one country," he added. "The gold is guarded by little people called leprechauns. The country is called Ireland."

"Wow! Can you take us there?" asked Lucy. "I'd love to see the gold at the end of the rainbow."

"I'd love to see the leprechauns," said Sam.



Bongo immediately climbed up the tree. There, among the branches, he found many nests. Each nest was overflowing with gold coins. Bongo threw some of the coins to his friends below.

Everyone cheered. They were all happy except for the birds. Two of them flew to the ground to rescue the coins.

As the birds were picking up the coins, RK-5 spoke to them. After listening to RK-5, the birds dropped the gold coins and flew back up to the tree.

Even though the area was muddy, there were no footprints besides their own and those of the leprechauns.

Kim was the first one to find a clue. She found a black feather. Then Lucy found another black feather.

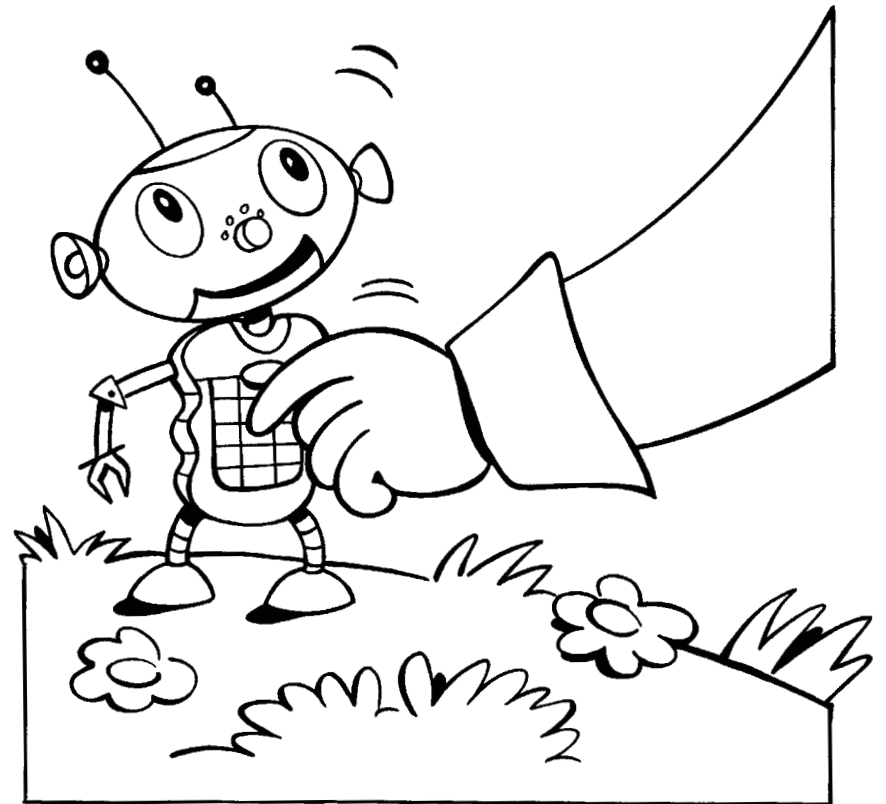
“Birds!” said Kim. “The thieves must be some kind of birds.”

Just as she said it, they became aware of dozens of birds singing. The birds were in a tall oak tree right above them.



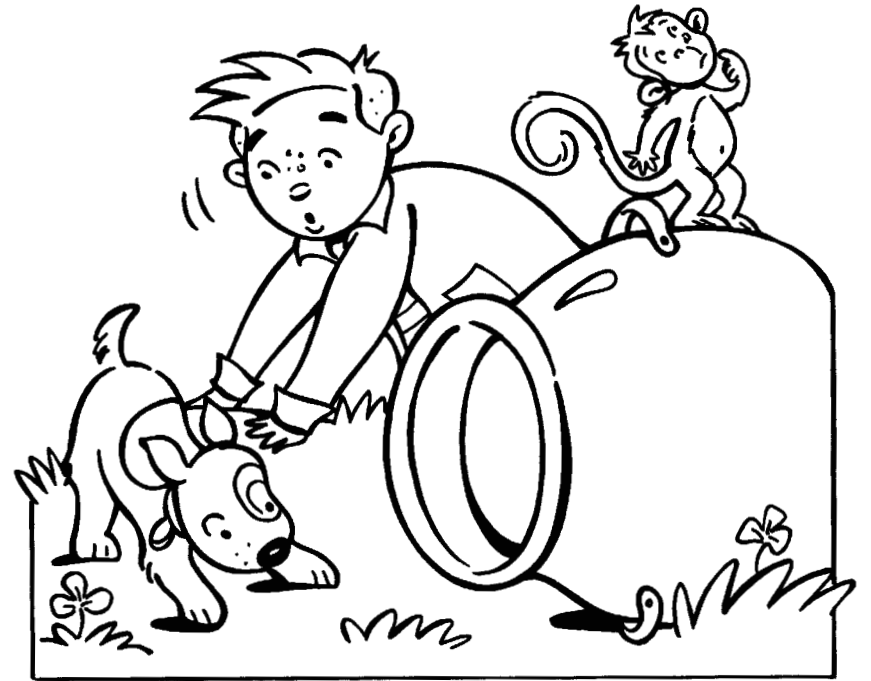
“Of course I can take you to Ireland,” said RK-5. “I can take you anywhere you want to go.”

They quickly decided that they would go to Ireland to find the leprechauns. RK-5 told Tommy which buttons to press on his button pad. There was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke.



When the smoke cleared, the friends found that they were in a field of bright green grass. Behind them were pointed rocks leading down to the sea. In front of them was a big castle on top of a hill.

"There's no rainbow," said Kim. "How can we find leprechauns if there's no rainbow?"



"This pot was overflowing with gold yesterday. When we arrived at daybreak this morning, it was empty. Overnight, someone took all of the gold."

"We must look for clues," said Tommy.
"Look everywhere."

The five friends got down on their hands and knees. They began to look in the grass for clues. Taffy carefully sniffed the ground around the iron pot.

"It's a disaster! Without our gold, we can't help the poor people of Ireland," Paddy sadly added.

"Don't be sad," said Tommy. "We'll help you find out who stole your gold. Show us where you last saw it."

They left the cave and went out into the bright sunlight. A wonderful, big rainbow arched above them. Paddy led them to the nearest end of the rainbow.

All they found was a large iron pot. It was empty.



"We don't need a rainbow," said RK-5.

"I know where to find the leprechauns. First, we must walk toward the castle."

When they were near the castle, RK-5 told them to stop near a huge oak tree. Among the roots of the tree was a small hole. RK-5 told them to enter the hole. They squeezed in, one by one.

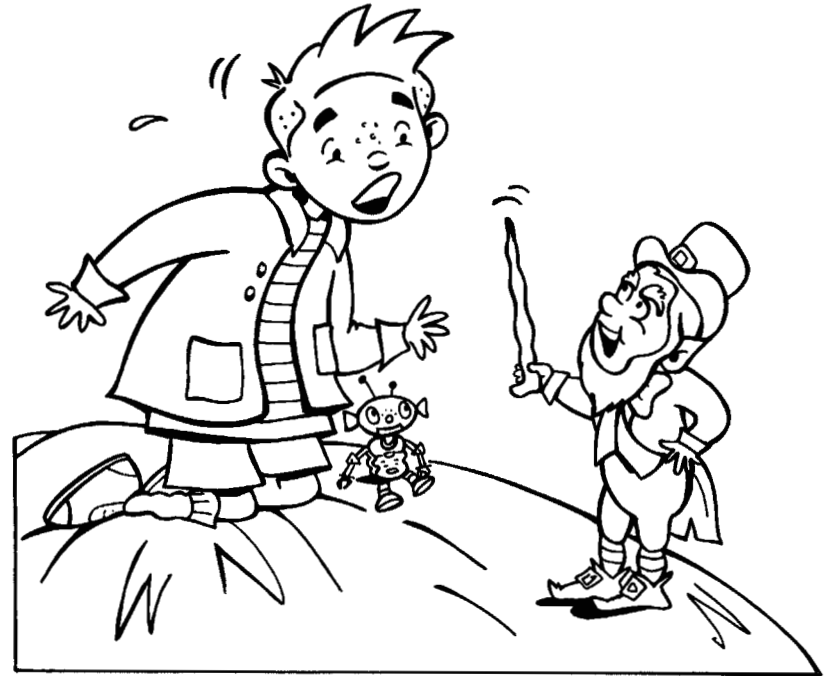


Suddenly, they found themselves falling. They tumbled down for several seconds. Then they landed softly in a pile of hay.

"That was fun," said Sam.

When their eyes got used to the dark, they saw that they were in a damp cave. Circled around them was a crowd of little people dressed in green.

The little people looked friendly, but curious.



One of them stepped forward. He had a big gray beard and carried a walking stick.

"Who are you, and what do you want?" asked the old leprechaun.

"We're looking for the leprechauns," said Tommy. "We want to see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

"Well, you've found us. We are the leprechauns. I am Paddy, the leprechaun leader. But you can't see our gold because someone stole it last night," said Paddy.